

the Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with star, the Military Outstanding Service Volunteer Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Army and Joint Staff Identification Badges.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to her country. Today we recognize her for her unwavering patriotism and dedication to her profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed one vote on May 3, 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 781 (Rollcall 120).

WASHINGTON 8TH DISTRICT
SCHOOLS NOTED AS NATION'S
BEST

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous students, teachers and administrators at Newport High School, Interlake High School, Bellevue High School, International High School and Sammamish High School, all located in Bellevue, Washington. These schools were named to Newsweek magazine's list of "America's Best High Schools."

For the second year in a row, three high schools in Bellevue were in the top 50—Newport is ranked 37th, Interlake is ranked 44th and Bellevue is ranked 49th. The International School in Bellevue is ranked 57th, up from 160th last year. Sammamish of Bellevue is ranked 186th.

Sincere congratulations to: Newport High School's Principal, Patty Siegwarth and Assistant Principals, James Peterson and Bethany Spinler and the Knights; Interlake High School's Principal, Sharon Collins and Assistant Principals, Eric Cochran and Keith Schacht and the Saints; Bellevue High School's Principal, Mike Bacigalupi and Assistant Principals, Doug Sovde and Johnnie Gregory and the Wolverines; International High School's Principal, Peter Bang-Knudsen, and International's student body; and Sammamish High School's Principal, Spencer Welch and Assistant Principals, Laura Bang-Knudsen, Jennifer Rose and Andrea Pfeifer and the Totems.

Newsweek determines its ranking based on the number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests taken by all of the schools' students in 2005. These tests are the best measure of overall college readiness, according to Newsweek.

Newsweek noted the schools for Creating Good Citizens, Celebrating Liberal Arts, Preparing Students for Work, Emphasizing Science and Technology and Reaching Out to Everyone as well.

I am filled with pride for these students and teachers, that their dedication to their education has distinguished them from others. Their accomplishments are noteworthy, but their drive to get where they are—the countless hours of preparation it entailed—is the real accomplishment. Juma Ikangaa, a Tanzanian marathon runner once said about preparing for marathons, "The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare."

Teachers and administrators at Newport High School, Interlake High School, Bellevue High School, International High School and Sammamish High School have prepared students not just for college with an outstanding high school education, but for life with a real lesson that will serve them well—real accomplishments take time and sustained effort to achieve. They do not happen overnight. They do not come easy. They are often impeded by unsuccessful attempts. These schools, students, teachers and administrators have demonstrated the philosophy Aristotle spoke of when he said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Don't break the habit.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC KING

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fallen soldier from my district. Army Specialist Eric King of Vancouver, Washington, was killed in Baghdad on April 22. He was 29 years old. Specialist King leaves behind his wife, Tracie, and daughters Ashlin and Shealyn, who will remember their father and husband's love of laughter, fishing, and the Northwest. His death is a tragedy not only for this family but for our community. On April 22, Specialist King was driving the lead Humvee in a convoy patrolling a Baghdad neighborhood when a roadside bomb exploded and killed King and his three comrades in the vehicle.

The Army awarded King the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and Army Service Medal.

Specialist King was born in Florida and moved to Vancouver in 1996. He left a union job as a truck driver in Portland to enlist in 2004. He was assigned to the First Squadron, 67th Armored Battalion in Baghdad.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. King's family, and with the families and loved ones of all our nation's fallen heroes. Let this stand as a solemn reminder of just how many brave men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of cynicism about politics today. H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, is a significant step toward additional transparency and accountability in the legislative process and will ensure that everyone has equal access to the legislative system. Had I been present on May 3, 2006, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4975.

HONORING MRS. PHYLLIS
McCARRICK

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a beloved constituent and community leader, Mrs. Phyllis McCarrick, of Rocky Point, New York, who recently passed away at the age of eighty-three.

Born Phyllis Healy in Arlington, Massachusetts, she served in the Navy during World War II and later settled in Rocky Point with her childhood sweetheart and husband, Mr. Thomas McCarrick. After running a milk delivery service, Phyllis and her husband opened the McCarrick Dairy and Grocery store, which grew into a beloved landmark in our community, and is owned and operated by their sons today.

Named Rocky Point's Citizen of the Year in 1999, Phyllis raised money for Catholic charities and was a Cub Scout den mother in addition to running a successful business. Her enduring contributions to eastern Long Island will always be remembered by our community with fondness and deep gratitude.

Phyllis is survived by eight children, nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I express our profound sorrow following Phyllis' passing as well as the gratitude of our community, which will always remember her extraordinary life and lifelong dedication to Rocky Point, New York.

FEDERAL ENERGY PRICE PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the tremendous impact that the cost of gasoline is having on my West Virginia constituents and on working families across the country. Rural communities that make up a large portion of my congressional district are especially hard hit by rising fuel costs because of the distance many people must travel to work and school and the limited public transportation options.

In addition to high prices, gas stations in some areas have run out of fuel all together. It is vital that we take every possible step to ensure that the gasoline market is priced fairly and it is important that we take steps to increase the supply of gasoline available to the market.

This week in my district I highlighted a 5-point plan to reduce the price of fuel. These steps include:

1. Take tough action against price gougers.
2. Waive boutique fuel requirements so that supply can be easily transferred between regions of the country.
3. Temporarily waive the 2.5 percent and 54 cent per gallon tax on ethanol so that imported ethanol can help make up the difference with the recent phase-out of MTBE in our gasoline supply.
4. Make use of coal—West Virginia's natural resource—as part of our fuel supply. Coal liquefaction technology has been available for many years and our government has invested in research that would allow for fuel to be produced now. Our nation has a 250-year supply of coal that already provides over half of our nation's electricity. Coal is an answer to the gasoline problem as well.

5. Allow for responsible drilling in ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf to increase our domestic supply of crude oil.

I am pleased that the House took action today on two elements of this important plan. I strongly support H.R. 5253, passed by the House today that will punish price gougers with tough fines or jail time. Provisions of the bill will allow for enforcement by either the Federal Trade Commission or state Attorney Generals to provide the maximum possible protection for consumers. We must investigate and punish instances of gouging wherever they occur on the energy supply chain.

I am extremely disappointed that the House did not take action today on H.R. 5254 to improve the permitting and approval process for new refineries. Our nation has not built a new refinery since 1976 and it is clear that the regulatory process is a major reason why. This improved permitting process would also have applied to coal liquefaction facilities—another step that should be taken to increase our fuel supply. Once again opponents of increased fuel supplies and lower prices blocked action on common sense energy solutions.

Passage of price gouging legislation is a positive first step. I urge my colleagues to support further legislation to increase supply by allowing new domestic exploration and waiving tariffs and boutique fuels.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON VOLUNTARY PRAYER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today is a significant day for me, the people of West Virginia and the Nation. Today we commemorate the National Day of Prayer.

As a people of faith, we know that prayer is a powerful instrument. And as one Nation under God, we know that many times our most powerful tool is prayer.

With that in mind and in celebration of National Prayer Day, today I have proposed in

the House of Representatives a Constitutional Amendment that would restore voluntary prayer in our Nation's schools.

West Virginia's senior Senator, ROBERT C. BYRD, introduced identical legislation in the United States Senate last week.

I believe that the Framers of the Constitution made their intent clear when they wrote the First Amendment. I believe they wanted to keep the new government from endorsing one religion over another, not erase the public consciousness or common faith.

For hundreds of millions of Americans who believe in God, prayer is our bridge between Earth and Heaven, our way of opening our hearts to the Lord. Through this intimate relationship we find peace and guidance. It is as important to us, as Christians, as the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat. It nourishes our souls and makes us strong.

Nothing in this Constitution, including any amendment to the Constitution, shall be construed to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer in school, or to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer at a public school extra-curricular activity. Nor does this resolution alter the language of the First Amendment.

The Constitutional Amendment I am introducing today simply clarifies our right, and the right of our children in school, to bow our heads and give thanks for our bountiful blessings, to begin the day as many of us do—with the comfort of prayer. It is a right that is protected by both the Free Speech and Free Exercise Clauses of our Constitution.

Today, during the National Day of Prayer, I am reminded of the verse in Second Chronicles that reads, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Today we thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon this great Country and ask Him to continue to heal our land and meet our needs—and we do so through the power of prayer.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JOSHUA BEN TELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Paul and Maxine Teller of Washington, D.C., on the birth of their son. Joshua Ben Teller was born this morning, May 4th, 2006, at 8:31 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and measures 19 inches long. Joshua is blessed to have been born into a loving home, with wonderful parents, and his birth is a blessing to our Nation.

THE TESTIMONY OF PENELOPE A. GROSS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Chesapeake Bay is one of our region's

greatest assets. Keeping the Bay clean is a major priority for the state and local governments.

Our colleague Wayne Gilchrist recently held a hearing on the status of the Bay. One of the participants in that hearing was Supervisor Penelope Gross from Fairfax County, Virginia. I would like to enter into the RECORD her thoughtful comments presented at that hearing. Supervisor Gross has long been an advocate for Bay restoration and her testimony reflects how local governments can be critical partners in that effort.

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

MAY 4, 2006.—Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss Chesapeake Bay restoration activities and the vitally important role of local governments in those efforts. I am honored to be invited to provide testimony. Chesapeake Bay issues are of particular interest to me, which is why I serve on the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, was a member of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Blue Ribbon Financing Panel and recently was elected Chair of the Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee, also known as LGAC. I also chair Virginia's Potomac Watershed Roundtable, and I represent the Mason District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. As you may know, Fairfax County is one of the largest jurisdictions, population-wise, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Each of these responsibilities has helped shape my perspective on what is needed to keep our efforts to achieve a clean Bay on track. I would like to share several themes that are the basis of my remarks today:

Implementation and restoration happen primarily at the local level and we need more state and federal funding to get the job done; EPA and their state counterparts need to provide stronger leadership on regulatory issues that will drive much of the multi-billion dollar Bay cleanup effort; a more focused approach to enforcement of existing federal laws, regulations, and policies by EPA to the state would alone make significant strides to clean up the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners need to set clear implementation priorities, emphasizing those measures that offer the greatest pollution reduction return on investment;

The implementation and funding burden must be shared equitably between and among sectors and levels of government.

Of the 98 commitments in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, 22 specifically involve local governments, and other commitments imply local government involvement. And I want to remind you that there are more than 1,650 local governments throughout the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay Watershed. From a local government perspective, we know what to do to continue making progress, but we need more help from our state and federal partners. The Bay Program has successfully generated plans and documents that outline what actions local governments should take to help restore the Bay. However, I believe we're heavy on written plans, and we're struggling on the follow-through—i.e., technical and financial assistance to get more done. This was the most common and strongly voiced concern